

TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB
BULLETIN

Supplement to the Tasmanian Naturalist, October 1983.

No 233.

WHAT IS THE TASMANIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB?

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club is a club devoted to encouraging the study of all forms of natural history in a friendly atmosphere, and to increase knowledge and awareness. We also offer a supportive voice in areas related to conservation.

Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month except January in St James Church hall, Rupert St, New Town, at 8pm. Outings are held the following weekend; meet at the Prince Theatre on the specified time. The Club's address is GrO Box 68A, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

NOVEMBER. 3rd November (Thursday). Mr David Hocking of the National Parks & Wildlife Services will be speaking on Native Rodents.

5th November (Saturday). We will be investigating some traps which will have been set the previous evening with the hope of catching (painlessly!-, some of the subjects of Thursday's talk.

DECEMBER. 1st December (Thursday). This is, of course, the beginning of the Alpine Flora season. Our own mountain has numerous exquisite examples, and the man who is maybe best acquainted with them is Dr D. Ratkowsky, the editor of our own enclosed magazine. His subject for tonight is Mosses and Liverworts of Mt Wellington.

4th December (n.b. Sunday). Outing to Mt Wellington with Dr Ratkowsky.

JANUARY. Members are reminded that we will be in recess, as usual, in January.

CLUB EXECUTIVE.

PRESIDENT.	Mr RW Chynoweth PO Box 314 Sandy Bay 7005	Ph 237779
VICE PRES.	Mr H Burton 1 Mary St Hobart 7000	Ph 347591
	Mr J Grist 329 Park St New Town 7008	Ph 282109
HON. SECR.	Mrs M Mollison 22 Toorak Ave Lenah Valley 7008	Ph 285668
HON. TREAS.	Mr J Grist (as above)	

The Society for Growing Australian plants are having a two day outing to National Park in December, to which they have very kindly invited our members. Anyone interested should contact the SGA secretary.

DID YOU KNOW? In our rambles in the bush we frequently find skulls of Tasmanian mammals, and the possibility is always that the one we find could be a relatively uncommon species. There is one very simple way to identify the animal, and that is by the arrangement of the teeth. For instance, rats, mice, hares and rabbits all lack canines and premolars. The length of the skull is also helpful in closer identification. The details are all clearly and carefully set out in table form in a book by Mr Rn Green of the Launceston Museum. The book is called The Mammals of Tasmania.

Tasmanian shells vary considerably in size. Our largest shell is a false baler shell, *Mammillana mammilla*. I found two on the Neck beach at Bruny; they can grow to almost a foot long. Our smallest shells are microscopic. John Grist has some of these set in slides. A person with good eyesight can, upon careful scrutiny, just make out that it is a shell. There are many species this size found on beaches like Kelso Beach, and also there are microscopic shells to be found in the sandstone at Fossil Bluff. Very little work has been done recently on Tasmanian Shells and it is quite probable that a series of dredging expeditions would yield a wealth of as yet undiscovered species.

TFNC MEETING was held recently in Koonya, with our club acting as host. Few of our members came, disappointingly, as the daytime outings and the talk by Prof Jackson were extremely good, as our President reported at the last meeting.

MEMBERS are reminded that subs fall due on January 1st 1984. You may pay our treasurer (see the reverse of this sheet.)

Now that the weather is warming up, why not invite a friend to our next meeting or outing. We feel that our speakers are of very high calibre and it is a shame that more people do not avail themselves of this fact. Our outings are always informative and recreational, and rarely strenuous. You could also avail yourselves of our recently re-catalogued library; see Helen Davidson if you have any interest you would like to follow up.

Best wishes to all from the Committee. See you on the 3rd.